

calculations performed by the BizPlan™ module 101. Although the illustrated embodiment shows the TopLine Planner™ module 100 as one module in an integrated system it, should be appreciated that the TopLine Manager™ module 100 may also function as a stand-alone module.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-20 and add Claims 21-40 as shown below. No Claims have been amended. Therefore, Claims 21-40 are pending in the application.

1 21. (New) A computer-automated method for financial planning by managing stored data  
2 values representing spending resources of an organization, the method comprising the  
3 computer-implemented steps of:  
4 receiving first data input that specifies a spending capacity for at least a portion of the  
5 organization;  
6 in response to receiving the first data input, creating and storing spending capacity data  
7 in a public area, wherein the spending capacity data defines the spending  
8 capacity based on the first data input;  
9 receiving second data input that specifies one or more planned expense allocations for  
10 the portion of the organization;  
11 in response to receiving the second data input, creating and storing planned expense  
12 data in a private area, wherein the planned expense data defines the one or more  
13 planned expense allocations based on the second data input;  
14 determining whether the planned expense data satisfies a criterion that is based on the  
15 spending capacity data; and  
16 storing the planned expense data in the public area only when the planned expense data  
17 satisfies the criterion.

1 22. (New) A method as recited in Claim 21, wherein:  
2 the organization is a business;

3 the portion of the organization is a department selected by user input from among a  
4 plurality of departments of the business;  
5 the department is associated with at least one spend account;  
6 the spending capacity is a limit on spending by the department; and  
7 the criterion is satisfied only when a sum associated with the planned expense data does  
8 not exceed the spending capacity.

1 23. (New) A method as recited in Claim 21, wherein:  
2 the portion of the organization is a department selected by user input from among a  
3 plurality of departments of a business; and  
4 the department is associated with one or more financial plans that are created and stored  
5 in the private area based on user input from a business manager of the  
6 department.

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1 24. (New) A method as recited in Claim 21, further comprising the computer-implemented  
2 steps of:  
3 developing an object that is related to financial activity of the portion of the  
4 organization;  
5 monitoring the object to identify financial activity in the portion of the organization;  
6 and  
7 wherein the step of creating the planned expense data in the private area is carried out  
8 based on financial activity that is identified from monitoring the object.

1 25. (New) A method as recited in Claim 21, further comprising the computer-implemented  
2 steps of:  
3 receiving a request to modify the spending capacity for the portion of the organization;  
4 determining whether the request is allowable; and  
5 only when the request is allowable, updating the first data that is stored in the public  
6 area to reflect the request to modify the resource capacity for the portion of the  
7 organization.

1 26. (New) A method as recited in Claim 25, wherein the request to modify the resource  
2 capacity is user data input representing a request to increase the spending capacity.

1 27. (New) A method as recited in Claim 25, wherein the step of determining whether the  
2 request is allowable comprises the computer-implemented steps of:  
3 sending an electronic message to another portion of the organization, wherein the  
4 message describes the request to modify the spending capacity; and  
5 receiving an electronic response from the other portion of the organization, wherein the  
6 response indicates whether the request to modify the spending capacity is  
7 allowable.

1 28. (New) A method as recited in Claim 27, wherein the response specifies that the request  
2 to modify the spending capacity is allowable based on a different value of the resource  
3 capacity than an original value of the spending capacity specified in the request.

1 29. (New) A method as recited in Claim 21, further comprising the computer-implemented  
2 steps of:  
3 receiving user data input representing a modification to one or more planned expenses  
4 for the portion of the organization; and  
5 updating only the planned expense data that is stored in the private area.

1 30. (New) A method as recited in Claim 21, wherein:  
2 the step of creating and storing the planned expense data in the private area includes the  
3 step of creating and storing one or more private plan objects in the private area  
4 as part of a department object that is associated with the portion of the  
5 organization; and  
6 the step of storing the planned expense data in the public area includes the step of  
7 creating one or more public plan objects as part of the department object.

1 31. (New) A computer-automated method for financial planning based on managing  
2 spending resources in an organization that includes a plurality of sub-organizations , the  
3 method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:  
4 creating and storing a stored data hierarchy that represents the organization and the sub-  
5 organizations and comprises a plurality of hierarchical levels,  
6 receiving first data that specifies a first resource capacity for a first hierarchical level  
7 from the plurality of hierarchical levels;  
8 receiving second data that defines one or more second resource capacities for one or  
9 more sub-organizations in a second hierarchical level from the plurality of  
10 hierarchical levels;  
11 storing the second data for a particular sub-organization of the one or more  
12 sub-organizations in a private area that is accessible by users associated with the  
13 particular sub-organization;  
14 when the second data does not exceed the first resource capacity, storing the second  
15 data in a public area that is accessible by users associated with the first  
16 hierarchical level and the second hierarchical level;  
17 receiving third data that specifies one or more planned resource allocations for each of  
18 the one or more sub-organizations in the second hierarchical level; and  
19 for each particular sub-organization of the one or more sub-organizations in the second  
20 hierarchical level:  
21 storing the third data in an additional private area that is only accessible by users  
22 associated with the particular sub-organization; and  
23 when the third data does not exceed the second resource capacity for the  
24 particular sub-organization, storing the third data in the public area that is  
25 accessible by users associated with the first hierarchical level and the  
26 second hierarchical level.

1 32. (New) A method as recited in Claim 31, further comprising the computer-implemented  
2 step of:

3 for each particular sub-organization of the one or more sub-organizations in the second  
4 hierarchical level, when the third data exceeds the second resource capacity for  
5 the particular sub-organization:

6 receiving a request to modify the second resource capacity for the particular sub-  
7 organization;

8 determining whether the request is allowable; and

9 when the request is allowable, updating the second resource capacity for the  
10 particular sub-organization.

1 33. (New) A method as recited in Claim 31, wherein the one or more planned resource  
2 allocations includes one or more third resource capacities for one or more  
3 sub-organizations in a third hierarchical level from the plurality of hierarchical levels.

1 34. (New) A method as recited in Claim 31, wherein the first hierarchical level is  
2 associated with at least one spend account.

1 35. (New) A method for controlling spending in a business that includes a plurality of  
2 departments, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

3 receiving first data input that specifies a spending capacity for a department from the  
4 plurality of departments;

5 in response to receiving the first data input, creating and storing first data in a public  
6 area, wherein the first data defines the spending capacity for the department;

7 receiving second data input that specifies one or more planned expenses for the  
8 department;

9 in response to receiving the second data input, creating and storing second data in a  
10 private area, wherein the second data defines the one or more planned expenses  
11 based on the second data input;

12 determining, based on the first data and the second data, whether the one or more  
13 planned expenses are within the spending capacity for the department;  
14 when the one or more planned expenses are not within the spending capacity for the  
15 department,  
16 receiving a request to increase the spending capacity for the department;  
17 determining whether the request is allowable;  
18 when the request is allowable, updating the spending capacity for the  
19 department; and  
20 when the one or more planned expenses are within the spending capacity for the  
21 department, storing the second data in the public area.

1 36. (New) A method for financial planning for a business, comprising:  
2 receiving input from a plurality of front line participants of the business, wherein the  
3 input specifies revenue forecasts for the business;  
4 in response to receiving the input, combining the input from the plurality of front line  
5 participants into an overall bookings forecast and an overall revenue forecast for  
6 the business;  
7 storing the overall bookings forecast and overall revenue forecast;  
8 based on the overall revenue forecast and a profit and loss model, calculating an overall  
9 resource capacity for the business;  
10 based on the overall resource capacity, receiving a plurality of resource capacities for a  
11 plurality of departments of the business;  
12 storing data that defines the plurality of resource capacities in a private area;  
13 when a sum of the plurality of resource capacities does not exceed the overall resource  
14 capacity, storing the plurality of resource capacities in a public area; and  
15 adjusting the plurality of resource capacities in response to one or more requests from  
16 the plurality of departments.

1 37. (New) A method as recited in Claim 36, further comprising the computer-implemented  
2 steps of:  
3 receiving modified input from the plurality of front line participants;  
4 in response to receiving the modified input, calculating a revised overall spending  
5 capacity based on the modified input;  
6 based on revised overall spending capacity, receiving a plurality of modified resource  
7 capacities for the plurality of departments;  
8 storing modified data that defines the plurality of modified resource capacities in a  
9 private area;  
10 when a revised sum of the plurality of modified resource capacities does not exceed the  
11 revised overall resource capacity, storing the plurality of modified resource  
12 capacities in the public area; and  
13 adjusting the plurality of modified resource capacities in response to one or more  
14 additional requests from the plurality of departments.

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1 38. (New) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for  
2 financial planning by managing stored data values representing spending resources of  
3 an organization, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one  
4 or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:  
5 receiving first data input that specifies a spending capacity for at least a portion of the  
6 organization;  
7 in response to receiving the first data input, creating and storing spending capacity data  
8 in a public area, wherein the spending capacity data defines the spending  
9 capacity based on the first data input;  
10 receiving second data input that specifies one or more planned expense allocations for  
11 the portion of the organization;  
12 in response to receiving the second data input, creating and storing planned expense  
13 data in a private area, wherein the planned expense data defines the one or more  
14 planned expense allocations based on the second data input;

15 determining whether the planned expense data satisfies a criterion that is based on the  
16 spending capacity data; and  
17 storing the planned expense data in the public area only when the planned expense data  
18 satisfies the criterion.

1 39. (New) A computer-automated apparatus for financial planning that manages stored data  
2 values representing spending resources of an organization, comprising:  
3 means for receiving first data input that specifies a spending capacity for at least a  
4 portion of the organization;  
5 means for creating and storing, in response to receiving the first data input, spending  
6 capacity data in a public area, wherein the spending capacity data defines the  
7 spending capacity based on the first data input;  
8 means for receiving second data input that specifies one or more planned expense  
9 allocations for the portion of the organization;  
10 means for creating and storing, in response to receiving the second data input, planned  
11 expense data in a private area, wherein the planned expense data defines the one  
12 or more planned expense allocations based on the second data input;  
13 means for determining whether the planned expense data satisfies a criterion that is  
14 based on the spending capacity data; and  
15 means for storing the planned expense data in the public area only when the planned  
16 expense data satisfies the criterion.

1 40. (New) A computer-automated apparatus for financial planning that manages stored data  
2 values representing spending resources of an organization, comprising:  
3 a network interface that is coupled to a data network for receiving one or more packet  
4 flows therefrom;  
5 a processor communicatively coupled to the network interface;  
6 one or more stored sequences of instructions which, when executed by the processor,  
7 cause the processor to carry out the steps of:

8 receiving first data input that specifies a spending capacity for at least a portion  
9 of the organization;  
10 in response to receiving the first data input, creating and storing spending  
11 capacity data in a public area, wherein the spending capacity data defines  
12 the spending capacity based on the first data input;  
13 receiving second data input that specifies one or more planned expense  
14 allocations for the portion of the organization;  
15 in response to receiving the second data input, creating and storing planned  
16 expense data in a private area, wherein the planned expense data defines  
17 the one or more planned expense allocations based on the second data  
18 input;  
19 determining whether the planned expense data satisfies a criterion that is based  
20 on the spending capacity data; and  
21 storing the planned expense data in the public area only when the planned  
22 expense data satisfies the criterion.

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